

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt166

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

COMMENTS TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
By: Kenneth Stubbe, Executive Director
Superior-Douglas County Development Association, Inc.

I. Two issues I'd like to speak to are:

1. The importance of OC-3 level node Badgernet access to Superior and Douglas County economic development
2. Support for the Governor's Brownfields Initiative

II. OC-3 Level Node Badgernet access

- ▶ A four-lane OC-3 level node Badgernet data transmission expressway is as important to Superior and Douglas County educational excellence as the U.S. Highway 53 expressway is for transportation access to the rest of the country.
- ▶ A narrow, two-lane, rural DS-3 level node data highway will keep Superior in the technology hinterlands just as completely as the lack of the Highway 53 expressway would have kept us in the transportation hinterlands.
- ▶ The quality of technology and access to information at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and at our local schools and libraries are among the primary engines of local business growth, job creation efforts and local economic development.
- ▶ To even be in the game, Superior, Douglas County and northwestern Wisconsin must have the same access to information as communities we compete against.
- ▶ We should not be punished because of our geography.

III. Governor's Brownfields Initiative

- ▶ Superior, like other Wisconsin cities, is an international seaport.
- ▶ Superior and the southern shore of Lake Superior also retains much of its original pristine natural beauty.
- ▶ On the waterfront in Superior we have a number of abandoned, obsolete ore docks and grain storage facilities.

Comments to Joint Finance Committee

By: Kenneth Stubbe

Page #2

- ▶ Clean-up and redevelopment of these abandoned sites would restore lost natural beauty to Superior and would lessen the pressure to develop still pristine areas.
- ▶ Funding provided through the Brownfields Initiative would allow Superior to be both environmentally and developmentally pro-active on our waterfront.

April 17, 1997

Budget Talk

04/17/97

Hello, my name is Linda Moder. I am here today on behalf of Family Forum Head Start Centers.

First I would like to say how happy I am to have the opportunity to speak in front of you, our State Legislature, and also how I hope by doing so I can make a difference in your choice of how much of an increase the Head Start program will receive in the upcoming budget.

In total the Head Start program of our state will require a 50% increase including : 15% for cost of living, 5% in order to keep parity with the new areas of the state which have "come aboard" the federal program over the last three years, 30% in order to make Head Start available to all the children on "existing waiting lists".

In light of this information, a 15% increase is a low amount to ask, considering it will benefit only part of the needs of the Head Start Program. Please consider also that the Federal level gives \$1000.00 more per child than we receive, and also that we have not received an increase in our budget for four years.

I myself have a child who participates in the Head Start program, and have also had two others whom participated in the past. Head Start is a quality program with a well structured system for underprivileged children, whom without this program, would not have the opportunity to attend a high-cost pre-school. Head Start provides children with social skills, nutritional meals

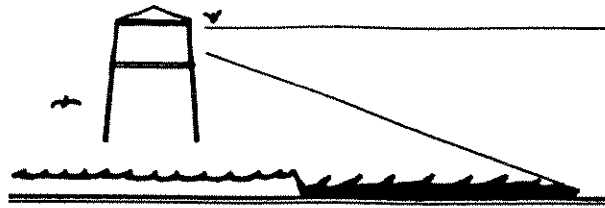
and snacks, and other very important attributes upon the arrival of Kindergarten.

I fear though that these services will only go to a select amount of the needy children in Wisconsin, whereas placing even more children on the already existing waiting list.

And so because of this I urge you to please consider a 15% cost of living increase to the Head Start program. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Linda Moder



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

**P. O. Box 1222
Superior, WI 54880**

STATEMENT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE RELATING TO LANGUAGE ON MINING, Sec. 3729-3730 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAND USE COUNCIL

**Superior, Wisconsin
April 17, 1997**

The League of Women Voters of Douglas County and League of Women Voters of Wisconsin have great concern regarding the Governor's budget language on mining, Sec. 3729-3730 and urge its rejection.

The language of these paragraphs stating "proven technology" exists to ensure proposed mining will operate "without violating state groundwater or surface water statutes or rules" is a vague and essentially meaningless statement.

The Governor's language would not require any proof that the technology in question has actually worked successfully in a mine of any sort, much less a sulfide metallic mine such as the proposed Crandon Mine. Nor does it require that a mining operator prove by example that the technology has worked over a period of time. Waste in tailings piles can remain toxic for centuries, and any leakage from the tailings could contaminate ground and/or surface water.

To propose this vague language with no existing examples of safe use in an actual mining situation of similar type is not acceptable in the face of potential and protracted damage to ground and surface waters of the state.

In regard to Land Use: since the 1970's the League of Women Voters has expressed continued support for the development of wise land management. The Governor's budget recognizes the increasingly serious and costly problem of unregulated land use in Wisconsin by recommending a permanent Wisconsin Land Council to identify goals, priorities and procedures.

However, no concrete steps toward realizing already identified goals and priorities are presented in the budget. Requiring that the Council issue an evaluation of its performance by the year 2002 does nothing to forward action on already completed study by the Strategic Growth Task Force and recommendations of the Interagency Land Use Council.

Problems and recommendations already identified need to be addressed with concrete steps that can be implemented now so local jurisdictions can start to draw up their land use plans without further delay.

We are also concerned that the Land Information Board, an established and functioning board, supported largely by user fees, will lose its effectiveness and ability to respond to local needs if it is subsumed into the Council. It works well and is responsive to local needs.

The Wisconsin Land Information Program - the Board plus 3 technical staff - provides guidance and expertise to local governmental units. It also provides grant money to counties and municipalities to facilitate land record modernization and is rapidly developing a land information clearinghouse. We strongly recommend the Land Information Board be retained in its present form. It can be accessed by the Wisconsin Land Council as needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to address our concerns regarding mining and land use.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruth O'Konek". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ruth O'Konek, Vice President
League of Women Voters of Douglas County

Sawyer County
LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT
SAWYER COUNTY COURT HOUSE • P.O. BOX 441
HAYWARD, WISCONSIN 54843

TELEPHONE 715-634-3564

April 17, 1997

Joint Finance Committee
Attn. Mr. Brian Burk
 Mr. Scott Jensen

Re: Testimony Regarding Wisconsin Land Information Program

My name is Ron Peterson and I am the County Surveyor and Land Records Officer for Sawyer County. I wish to speak in favor of the retention of the WLIB and the WLIP in their present form, including the present form of administration, representation and funding.

For 35 years I was the owner/operator of a private land surveying business here in Sawyer County. I know well hardships of trying to perform surveys without county participation in the Public Land Survey system and the additional expense in time and dollars while trying to do record research in a antiquated, non-automated land records system.

When Sawyer County joined the WLIP 5 years ago, I was hired as the County Surveyor/Land Records Officer. Through the WLIP and under the guidance of the WLIB, Sawyer County has made more progress in the modernization of its land records and the PLS monumentation program in the past 5 years then in the previous 50 years.

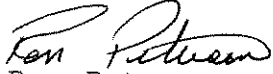
A document imaging system has been installed in the Register of Deeds Office to electronically scan and index over 8000 documents into the record each year. Automated mapping has been added to the Land Records department to handle zone district maps, parcel maps and the address system mapping. A full time survey department has been added to monument the 5000 plus corners in the PLS system and our high precision geodetic network will be completed this summer which will provide the framework for a County wide coordinate system to control surveying and mapping.

The credit for those accomplishments can only be attributed to the WLIP under the guidance of the WLIB. Because the program is structured the way Government was intended to function (with the dog wagging the tail and not the other way around), the counties and municipalities are able to do their own "needs assessment" and set the priorities for their modernization plan. WLIB has established standards for the various activities, thereby ensuring that the products developed will be compatible with other government agencies.

To confiscate the WLIP/WLIB and transfer it to some bureaucracy would sign the death certificate of a program that has been so successful that it has gained National recognition. The program is what it is because of the hundreds of people who worked to develop and structure it. Most of those people came from the private sector and municipal and county government- people who are still in touch with the everyday problems of providing services to the citizenry of our State.

Don't "throw the baby out with the wash water".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Peterson".

Ron Peterson
County Surveyor/LIO

Joint Finance Committee

Brian Burke, Scott Jensen, Co-chairs

Testimony of Kathleen E. Swingle, Burnett County Surveyor/Land Information Supervisor

April 17, 1997/Superior

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget bill. My concerns deal with sections 44, 51, 133 through 142, 669, 672 and 673, 682 through 684, 774 and 775, 1156, 1164, 2164, 2175 through 2178. All of these sections contribute to a transfer of all legislative charges and funding of the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) to the Department of Administration.

The Wisconsin Land Information Board is part of a thriving land information modernization program now underway in Wisconsin. This project has won acclaim from other states and, indeed, other nations and its participants have thoughtfully developed a path to success. Proof of this success is consistently produced in all geographic areas of the state as well as the many facets of land information.

A philosophy of the WLIB and others involved with the Wisconsin Land Information Program is to make the absolute best use of the taxpayer dollar by eliminating as much redundancy as possible through cooperative efforts and communication between local, state and federal officials, tribal governments and private industry. The sharing of information and expertise is not a small part of this process. I have never witnessed another program with so many talented, generous and enthusiastic professionals willing to give of themselves way beyond the "call of duty." These, plus many other factors, contribute to the impressive accomplishments of this effort.

I know the paragraphs above are rather general and there are many, many specific examples I could relay to you from my own personal experience. However, in view of the immensity of conducting the hearings, I hope it will be sufficient to say "please contact me if you would like to hear details". Burnett County has been profoundly affected by the land information modernization movement. It is important to impress upon you the gains made in Wisconsin through the Land Information Program as it now exists and that a change at this point would not benefit the citizens of the state. I would also like to point out the issue is not just a group of people resisting change. The land information community must embrace (or at least have peaceful coexistence) with change at all times because of the rapid changes in our technology. Another thing we have learned is change for the sake of change is not necessarily progress.

Here are my concerns:

- The Wisconsin Land Information Board and the Wisconsin Land Information Program were born out of a very public process through the legislature with a great deal of scrutiny. (Perhaps a contributing reason for the success.) It does not seem wise to end this type of a program with a few paragraphs in the budget bill.

- The proposed Wisconsin Land Council which would be replacing the Wisconsin Land Information Board does not have the policy making ability the WLIB has and would be a child of the Department of Administration. At minimum, this would be perceived as a "state" program and possibly remove cooperative incentives that now exist between local and other levels of government.
- The WLC was conceived out of the need for land use planning in the state. While I very much agree with the need for land use planning and personally sit on committees doing just that in my county, planning is only one of the applications for the various types of land information being captured. Furthermore, it can be a very controversial one which could result in losing our whole program if planning took a downward turn in the polls.
- Sections 682 through 684 seize the funds administered by the WLIP from the original purpose of funding the wide variety of WLIP programs. I am troubled by the lack of language guaranteeing funding of WLIP activities and I fear substantially more dollars will be used for administrative purposes.

This is why I join with the Wisconsin Land Information Association in the request to consider removing all references to eliminate the WLIP and WLIB or transfer of duties from the budget bill so this issue can be handled in a more thoughtful manner.

I also concur with the WLIA that it would be proper to provide a seat on the WLIP for a member of the Wisconsin Land Use Council; that land use mapping be a legislatively directed foundational element of the Wisconsin Land Information Program; that concurrent sunset dates for both the WLC and the WLIP may be appropriate; that parallel evaluation and performance reviews for both the WLC and the WLIP be conducted.

The WLIA is correct in wishing to maintain the WLIP (and WLIP) which provides a strong connection between the land information community and the policy body. They strongly feel the need for segregated funding which, in my opinion, is necessary to be certain the funding goes to land record modernization efforts. The staff of the WLIP as it now exists should be maintained. They have done a terrific job under difficult conditions. And finally, the chemistry that exists by the combination of WLIP, WLIP advisors, WLIA and local participation is a very hard one to beat!

Thank you again for providing a forum for input from the community and for listening to my views on this very important topic.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Swingle
Burnett County Surveyor/Land Information Supervisor

C E S A #12

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE AGENCY - #12

■ Fred J. Schlichting,
Administrator

618 Beaser Avenue
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
715-682-2363
Fax 715-682-7244

April 17, 1997

TO: WI Legislature Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Fred Schlichting, Member of the Executive Committee
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CONSORTIUM ON TECH PREP

RE: Proposed legislation affecting Tech Prep and School to Work
in Northwest WI

The NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CONSORTIUM ON TECH PREP at a meeting of the executive council earlier this month reviewed proposed legislation affecting tech prep and school to work efforts. The executive council is made up of membership from the technical college (WITC), the regional service agencies (CESAs 11 and 12), the University of Wisconsin-Superior, school districts, private colleges and two private industry councils serving our region.

The group prepared a statement of concerns/recommendations related to the Governor's Budget Bill which is attached. With the exception of two abstentions, the group voted unanimously to support the attached statement.

■
Ashland
Bayfield
Butternut
Drummond
Glidden
Hayward
Hurley
Maple
Mellen
Mercer
Northwood
Park Falls
Phillips
Solon Springs
South Shore
Superior
Washburn
Winter

"School Districts Working Together"

CONCERNS/RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO GOVERNOR'S BUDGET BILL

SCHOOL-TO-WORK/TECH PREP

- Consolidation of STW administration within the Department of Workforce Development diminishes the educational "school-based" component. It may be overshadowed by the "work-based" DWD priorities.
- Direct grants to individual school districts will detract from district-wide cooperative efforts that are essential for an effective School to Work program. There are no incentives to plan together, pool and share resources and expertise. There are no mechanisms to ensure that all school districts are proceeding in a similar fashion in developing their programs. CESA's have played a critical role in supporting and coordinating local efforts and need to be supported to continue to do so.
- Proposed legislation eliminates the requirement for Tech Prep Executive Councils and Consortiums. It is, however, essential to continue these activities (particularly in large districts like ours with 46 school districts to coordinate!). Continuation should be an option. Funding for this essential activity should also continue to be an allowable expenditure under School-to-Work and Tech Prep grants.
- Tech Prep staff development grants need to be continued to support joint technical college/K-12 districtwide staff development. This is the key to success of STW in transforming our educational system. Grant guidelines, however, and state bureaucracy need to be simplified!

YOUTH OPTIONS

- Although we do not anticipate a lot of high school students enrolling in this program, it can provide valuable opportunities for mature high school students and should be supported. The impact on school districts needs to be considered, to include proposed supplemental charges for students with exceptional needs. Flexible mechanisms should be built in to ensure that schools have options/access to additional state funding in the event of any major budgetary impact resulting from youth option transfers into postsecondary education. It will be extremely difficult to plan budgets in advance without such a provision.

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

- Part of the additional appropriation for youth apprenticeship could be better spent by increasing funding to enhance STW efforts through the schools. Similar (and more closely coordinated) apprenticeship opportunities can be provided in a school setting which integrates school and work-based learning components.

TECHNOLOGY ("TEACH" Initiative)

- We do support the proposed TEACH allocations to school districts as well as the WTCS and CESA technology-related staff development grants. They are critical components of this initiative. This will enable us to utilize technology to do a better job in developing curriculum and delivering instruction that meets the needs of our students.
- We do, however, have serious concerns about the overall impact of funding this program in lieu of previous ETB grants. The current TEACH proposal **CANNOT** accomplish the stated vision of creating a seamless educational system by connecting Wisconsin's school districts, technical colleges and university system, for the following reasons:
 1. There is no mechanism for funding large consortium-wide infrastructure projects which provide the backbone for statewide interconnectivity. Instead, individual grants are allocated directly to each school district for individual needs.
 2. The majority of the funding is limited to school districts. Other educational partners involved in local telecommunications consortiums (i.e., technical colleges, CESAs and universities) do not have access to grants to support their share of costs for major system upgrades or needed technology.
- We strongly recommend that all educational institutions be brought into the mix and/or have access to another source of funding to support similar needs. All educational institutions must also have access to the Universal Access fund. We further recommend that there be (within TEACH or through another budget appropriation) access to grant funding for consortium-wide infrastructure upgrades in the future.

I am David Johnson, Director of the Northern Wisconsin Educational Communications System consisting of 7 k-12 school districts, the University of Wisconsin Superior, the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College system, and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College. I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The TEACH initiative is a bold, innovative, and I believe unprecedented approach to addressing the technology needs of ~~all~~ students in Wisconsin. I have a few brief comments and concerns:

- Block Grant*
- TECHNOLOGY*
- Through the block grant program, TEACH addresses the frustrations of many of our small rural districts, that is the inability to acquire state funding through the competitive grant process against the larger more resourceful districts.
 - These block grants, although quite small for most of our schools, and the subsidized access to T-1 or T-3 telecommunications lines, represent an opportunity to move forward. The subsidized rates could be the most important element of TEACH for Northern Wisconsin, an area with limited high speed internet access.
 - However, I am afraid that large collaborative projects, such as the creation of new distance education networks, will decline under the TEACH program. Without some available funds or some provision for these large scale projects, growth of new networks will slow dramatically.
 - Small districts will also find it very difficult to join existing networks. The cost of joining a network vary greatly. The Hayward school district will be joining our network this fall thanks to an ETB grant. Cost 77 thousand dollars. Relatively inexpensive. On the other hand, the cost for Senator Jauchs home district of Maple to join the same network would be in the area of 200 thousand dollars.
 - Furthermore, TEACH eliminates the current state coordination and support offered to distance education networks through the Educational Communications Board. One of those coordinating activities was the organizing of a ~~sub~~ committee on which I serve, made up of Network directors from different areas of the state. The purpose of this ~~sub~~ committee is to set guidelines for and foster internetwork activities across the state. *Shared classes* The kind of link-ups that the governor demonstrated during his state of the state address. I hope that TEACH will be able to continue to provide the kind of coordination that we have come to count upon, so that we will not become isolated from each other.

BADGERNET - Chancellor Ehlkenbach is right.

CESA's

I would like to finish up by expressing support to the role of Cooperative Educational Service Agencies in the TEACH program. When districts lack the resources to train their teachers and support their technology they turn to CESA's for help. In general, Northern Wisconsin districts are contending with declining enrollments and are tightening their belts. They cannot afford technology coordinators or technical support staff. ~~By creating these two new positions at the CESA level TEACH will begin to address the needs of the whole region.~~ CESA's are also currently the primary provider of teacher training in technology in our region. State support for CESA's activities will allow for the creation of programs designed for the special needs of the region.

I would like to take one more moment to speak about a separate issue. The ETB is currently reviewing applications for what looks to be its last time. I believe that it is vital that funds are not removed from the program until after this final round. Many organizations have put a lot of hard work into those applications, applications for many projects unattainable through TEACH, and they deserve a fair shot at getting funded.

Thank you for your time, and this opportunity to speak.

State DE functions:

- sub-committees dealing with specific issues like internetwork programming
- Forum of Network Directors
- gathering and distribution of information about the status of DE networks in the state and Distance Education Technologies
- express the states vision and acts as contact with the DOA and other state bodies
- help to identify funding federal and non-state funding sources

COMMENTS TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
By: Kenneth Stubbe, Executive Director
Superior-Douglas County Development Association, Inc.

I. Two issues I'd like to speak to are:

1. The importance of OC-3 level node Badgernet access to Superior and Douglas County economic development
2. Support for the Governor's Brownfields Initiative

II. OC-3 Level Node Badgernet access

- ▶ A four-lane OC-3 level node Badgernet data transmission expressway is as important to Superior and Douglas County educational excellence as the U.S. Highway 53 expressway is for transportation access to the rest of the country.
- ▶ A narrow, two-lane, rural DS-3 level node data highway will keep Superior in the technology hinterlands just as completely as the lack of the Highway 53 expressway would have kept us in the transportation hinterlands.
- ▶ The quality of technology and access to information at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and at our local schools and libraries are among the primary engines of local business growth, job creation efforts and local economic development.
- ▶ To even be in the game, Superior, Douglas County and northwestern Wisconsin must have the same access to information as communities we compete against.
- ▶ We should not be punished because of our geography.

III. Governor's Brownfields Initiative

- ▶ Superior, like other Wisconsin cities, is an international seaport.
- ▶ Superior and the southern shore of Lake Superior also retains much of its original pristine natural beauty.
- ▶ On the waterfront in Superior we have a number of abandoned, obsolete ore docks and grain storage facilities.

Comments to Joint Finance Committee

By: Kenneth Stubbe

Page #2

- ▶ Clean-up and redevelopment of these abandoned sites would restore lost natural beauty to Superior and would lessen the pressure to develop still pristine areas.
- ▶ Funding provided through the Brownfields Initiative would allow Superior to be both environmentally and developmentally pro-active on our waterfront.

April 17, 1997

C E S A #12

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE AGENCY - #12

■ Fred J. Schlichting,
Administrator

618 Beaser Avenue
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
715-682-2363
Fax 715-682-7244

DATE: 4/16/97
TO: Joint Finance Committee
RE: Testimony for State Budget Hearing 4/17/97, Superior, Wisconsin
School to Work

I am writing to you to express my opinion that the proposal to consolidate the School to Work office in the Department of Workforce Development be amended. The current proposal will transfer vocational education consultants from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Wisconsin Technical College Board (WTCB) to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). I suggest that funds for additional staff be added to the Department of Workforce Development School to Work office budget and the vocational education consultants remain at DPI and WTCB. DWD, DPI and the Wisconsin Technical College System each deserve staff to implement the State plan for School to Work.

The concepts and program activities contained in the State plan for School to Work need to be integrated into school curriculum, articulated with the post secondary system and connected to business and industry partners. It is critical that each State department be adequately staffed so as to provide leadership, technical assistance and consultation necessary for our schools and communities to plan and implement quality programs. If School to Work is to deliver on the promise of educational reform, please do not support a policy that erodes the leadership capacity of the State's educational agencies.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Lee, Director
Center for School to Work and Career Preparation

JL:jmp

cc: Assembly Person Barbara Linton
State Senator Robert Jauch
State Superintendent John Benson
Vicki Poole, Administrator, Division of Connecting Education and Work

■
Ashland
Bayfield
Butternut
Drummond
Glidden
Hayward
Hurley
Maple
Mellen
Mercer
Northwood
Park Falls
Phillips
Solon Springs
South Shore
Superior
Washburn
Winter

REF: STW Server/Jeanette/JL FY7/Memo State Budget Hearing

"School Districts Working Together"

April 14, 1997

To: State Joint Finance Committee,
Public Hearing - April 17, 1997

I am a Component Coordinator for a Head Start program that covers the 5 northern counties of Wisconsin. The component areas that I am responsible for are Health and Nutrition. Within our Head Start program we serve over 560 families a year. At least 75% of these families are eligible and receive some services from Medical Assistance.

During the last few years it has become a real challenge for these families to receive services from area dentists. The dentists are not providing services to families that have an MA card. Many dentist will not accept new MA clients and many have quit servicing families with an MA card that have received services from them in the past. It is a real problem for families to access any sort of Dental care.

The Wisconsin Dental Association 12th District has proposed a Title 19 Block Grant Pilot Program. This program would occur in Douglas, Ashland, Bayfield and Iron counties. This proposal would provide better access to dental care services to families that are on Medical Assistance.

A performance standard of the Head Start program is for every child to have a annual dental exam. We see many children who come into our program at the age of 3 who have never been to the dentist. And in most cases if they did see a dentist it was for the relief of pain. We work very hard to educate and assist families to visit the dentist on a regular, preventive basis. We work with the children to provide education on what a dental visit is like and try very hard in taking the fear away. More accessible dental services need to be available to assist our families in accomplishing this goal of good, preventive oral hygiene.

I am asking for you support on this Pilot Project for the counties of Douglas, Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron. It may provide better access to dental care and services to apx. 13, 000 MA recipients.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Joan Keeler-Pellman

Family Forum, Inc. - Project Head Start
Health/Nutrition Coordinator

MAYOR MARGARET CICCONE
COMMENTS BEFORE THE
JOINT FINANCE HEARING COMMITTEE
April 17, 1997

The two issues I am going to speak to today are:

1. *The revenue option known as Premier Resort Area.*

I support Governor Thompson's recommendation authorizing a local option revenue source in support of tourism destination. A tax of up to 0.5 percent could be levied on food and beverage sales. The district could consist of more than one municipality and participating municipalities could issue revenue bonds to finance capital improvement projects in the district. This proposal will assist municipalities with significant tourism activities in finding alternative funding mechanisms for capital projects.

2. *Fair Taxation.*

We also ask for tax fairness. Because cities, villages and some towns provide their residents with many of the same services that county government typically provides only to rural residents, city taxpayers often pay twice for services that rural residents only pay for once (Double Whammy - AB 262 / SB 150). This artificially increases the cost of living in urban areas and encourages sprawl. But simple equity alone dictates that the Legislature act to end double taxation of some citizens.

Senator Jauch and Assembly person Linton. My name is Judy Lyons. I work for the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College with distance learning and the libraries. I am here today to speak with you about the Northern Area Health Education Center (AHEC), and the need for you to support a request to increase the Governor's budget in this area.

As you may know, WITC offers a number of programs in the health and allied health fields. It supports not only these students but also the 31 health care faculty and five on-site registered nurses who are responsible for the health and safety needs of our four campus locations.

One of the needs of our geographic area is reasonable access to health information, not only at the post secondary schools but also for support of students who are involved with on-site clinical experiences. As you know, the distances are great and health institutions small.

In the belief that all of us in the area need to support the health care students and professionals for the greater good, WITC is involved with and supports the Northern Wisconsin AHEC initiative, Northwoods HealthNet. This project is intended to upgrade and in some cases begin information services for health professionals and students working in our rural northland. Through the grant for this project which the Northern Wisconsin AHEC wrote, Internet access equipment for these northern Wisconsin health providers will be made available, the health science materials that these institutions already have will be entered through a cataloging process to enable resource sharing among the Healthnet members, and training programs will be provided to bring the local information providers up to speed on resource sharing. This is a vitally important project for this part of the state where distance, low population, and lack of experience, expertise, and equipment put our health and allied health professionals and students at great disadvantage.

This project would not have happened without the hard work, direction, and persistence of the AHEC staff. The northern Wisconsin AHEC has brought together both the post Secondary schools like WITC,

community entities, and private sector entities in an effort to provide improved support for the health needs of Northern Wisconsin. It has been sorely needed. Even with this project underway, there is still a great need, particularly here in the north for the ongoing support of Northern Wisconsin AHEC and its mission to enhance and expand community based health professionals education programs that will improve distribution of primary care health professionals to underserved rural and urban communities and provide continuing education in these underserved areas.

To help your constituents, the people of northern Wisconsin, receive the quality health care support they need and have a right to expect, I would wholeheartedly ask on behalf of WITC, its staff and students and myself, that you support an increase in the GPR funding to \$750,000 in the fiscal year 1997-98 and the \$800,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 with the funds to be split equally between appropriations s.20.250(1)(c) and s.20.285(1)(b).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Judy Lyons
600 N. 21st Street
Superior, WI 54880

(715) 394-6677



University of Wisconsin
SUPERIOR

UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
Rothwell Student Center, 1800 Grand Avenue
(715) 394-8432 • FAX (715) 394-8454

Superior, WI 54880-2898

Testimony of

Nicole Matthews

University of Wisconsin- Superior Student

On the 1997-1999 Biennial Budget Proposal

Before the Joint Finance Committee

April, 17 1997

Good afternoon, my name is Nicole Matthews and I am a member of the University of Wisconsin-Superior Student Senate. I am currently a sophomore here on campus.

I would like to talk to you today about the issue of Academic advising. The UW-System asked for an 11 million dollar advising initiative to help improve advising on all UW campuses. The governor decided not to fund that initiative in his budget proposal. Student on my campus, and United Council students Statewide would like to see this initiative put back into the budget.

There are many areas in which academic advising needs to be improved on UW campuses. First, there needs to be strong improvements made in the area of Transfer advising. At my campus, the Faculty and staff members are our advisors. At this point in time they are given no formal training in how to be an advisor. While I have been in college I have realized how important good Academic Advising is. One of my friends who is graduating has had four different advisors in the past four years, another friend of mine, who is transferring, is losing quite a few credits and his four year college plan has turned into a five or six year plan. Any money that we could get to train advisors would greatly appreciated by students on our campus.

We need more money to support technology for advising. We are living in the age of technology. If we had sufficient funding, students and advisors would have the ability to check on their degree status at any time, anywhere. In an attempt to reduce the amount of credits to degree, a lot of the class offerings on my campus have changed. Right now I am not sure what classes I need to graduate and which ones I don't. If there was a computerized process that all students could use, It would be easier for me to get updated information. One thing that we must keep in mind is that computers are only as accurate as the person who enters the data and the advisor who interprets the reports. Equipment must be maintained, data must be current, and staff must be trained if these new technologies are to provide more effective services to students.

My campus is always looking for new ways to market itself. We are always looking for new

students and we want to grow. If Wisconsin wants to be competitive with other states, they have to make a very strong investment in education. Please remember to invest in the students of UW-Superior and families of Wisconsin when putting together the budget.

Thank you very much for time and consideration.



University of Wisconsin
SUPERIOR

UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
Rothwell Student Center, 1800 Grand Avenue
(715) 394-8432 • FAX (715) 394-8454

Superior, WI 54880-2898

Testimony of

Debra A. Filteau

University of Wisconsin-Superior Student Senate President
United Council of Wisconsin Students Vice President

On the 1997-1999 Biennial Budget Proposal

Before the Joint Finance Committee

April 17, 1997

Members of the Joint Finance Committee, Good afternoon. I would like to begin by thanking you for allowing students the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Debra Filteau and I am the President of the University of Wisconsin- Superior Student Senate and Vice President of the United Council of Wisconsin Students. I currently represent over 2,600 students on the UW-Superior campus and I am a leader in United Council, an organization that represents over 140,000 students statewide.

As part of the UW System Board of Regents' Study of the UW-System in the 21st Century, there was a recommendation that would allow campuses, in various clusters— centers, comprehensives, and doctoral campuses— to charge differential tuition rates within the cluster. With this provision, there would be a minimum tuition level that must be charged. Campuses would then be allowed to increase tuition levels above and beyond that level.

Students on my campus, and members of United Council are opposed to differential tuition for both entire campuses and specific programs at campuses.

Students believe that differential tuition, as proposed, would force tuition increases on all UW-Campuses. Currently, the center institutions have one set tuition level, the 4-year comprehensives have set another, and the doctoral campuses have their set levels. Differential tuition would change this system and could force campuses to raise tuition levels above what they would normally be. This would occur as a result of competition between the campuses. For example, if one campus decided to raise tuition to increase program revenue, other campuses would have to do the same or they might loose faculty and students to that competing institution. This could prove extremely detrimental to students at UW-Superior.

I have talked with many legislators and educators statewide about the competition that differential tuition would create. Eau Claire currently has differential tuition. They have basically created a student fee to pay for academic programs. This has already created competition in the UW-

System. My campus almost lost one of its professors to Eau Claire. Eau Claire currently has a selling point that the rest of the UW schools do not. They have money for programs that the rest of the schools do not.

Eau Claire is already causing this competition. If differential tuition becomes a reality, then Superior is going to be forced to use that mechanism to keep faculty on our campus.

At Superior, we have a higher percentage of students receiving financial aid than any other campus. If tuition was increased, many of our students could be priced out of an education.

Superior is the University for Northern Wisconsin. The two most common reasons that students attend school here are price and location. As a result of these reasons, UW-Superior provides an excellent economic benefit for the people of Northern Wisconsin. Our next closest institution is almost three hours away. If Superior is forced to compete with other institutions for program revenue and students, the families and students in Superior would very likely be forced out of an education.

Differential tuition is a flexibility that students and Wisconsin families can not afford. Wisconsin must continue its commitment and continue to invest in education. Differential tuition would most likely cause competing and rising tuition increases that would force many students out of an education.